

Message Text

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45

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

AGR-20 EB-11 COME-00 STR-08 TRSE-00 SPM-01 SIL-01

LAB-06 NIC-01 AID-20 IGA-02 OMB-01 CIEP-02 RSR-01

/163 W

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R 311917Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8694

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GEORGETOWN 1135

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GY

SUBJECT: OPPOSITION LEADER CALLS FOR NON-COOPERATION WITH
GOVERNMENT

1. LEADER OF OPPOSITION PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY (PPP)
CHEDDI JAGAN HAS CALLED FOR NON-COOPERATION WITH GOV'T AT ALL
LEVELS. JAGAN, IN STATEMENT PUBLISHED JULY 29 IN PPP PAPER,
MIRROR, ASKED PEOPLE, AS PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS, TO USE ALL
AVAILABLE MEANS TO RESIST RULING PEOPLE'S NATIONAL CONGRESS
(PNC) AND THOSE WHO AIDED THEM IN ELECTORAL FRAUD. AS LEADER
OF PPP, WHICH IS ALREADY BOYCOTTING NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, JAGAN
APPEALED FOR EXTENSION OF NON-COOPERATION TO FIELDS, FACTORIES,
AND OFFICES.

2. COMMENT: NON-COOPERATION IN GENERAL, AS A PROTEST, MIGHT
EVOKE SOME RESPONSE. HOWEVER, IMPLICIT CALL FOR RESTRICTION
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OF FOOD PRODUCTION,LARGELY IN THE HANDS OF EAST INDIANS WHO

TRADITIONALLY SUPPORT JAGAN, LESS LIKELY TO BE HEEDED. EAST INDIAN FARMERS CONCEIVABLY MIGHT PRODUCE ONLY ENOUGH TO FEED THEMSELVES, THUS CREATING SHORTAGES FOR AFRO-GUYANESE WHO LIVE IN URBAN AREAS, AND RESTRICTING GUYANESE EXPORTS OF RICE. CANE CUTTERS, WHO MUCH MORE MARGINAL THAN RICE FARMERS AND MUCH MORE RESPONSIVE TO JAGAN'S INFLUENCE MIGHT RESPOND TO STRIKE CALLS INTENDED TO RESTRICT SUGAR PRODUCTION. HARVESTING OF SUGAR BEGINS IN SEVERAL WEEKS WHILE AUTUMN RICE HARVEST TAKES PLACE SEPT-NOV. BOYCOTT PROBABLY MORE RHETORIC THAN SUBSTANCE AS PPP SEEMS TO LACK ORGANIZATION REQUIRED FOR DISCIPLINED AND EFFECTIVE EFFORT. FURTHER, RICE FARMERS WHO HAVE RECEIVED PRICE INCREASES UNDER PNC GOV'T MAY BE RELUCTANT TO WITHHOLD THEIR CROPS. HOWEVER, PAINTED SIGNS ALONG WEST COAST ROAD REFERRING TO "TRAITORS" IN EAST INDIAN COMMUNITIES AND REPORTS OF BURNING OF HOUSES OF ALLEGED PROXY VOTE COLLECTORS IN EAST INDIAN AREAS SUGGEST PPP MAY RESORT TO INTIMIDATION TO GAIN INDIAN SUPPORT FOR ITS POLICY OF NON-COOPERATION. SHERRY

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30 JUN 2005

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